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Prevention of armed conflict

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to forward a letter addressed to you from Mr. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, concerning the issue of terrorism and the grave situation in Somalia, which I received today, 3 May 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 11, 62 (b) and 80, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tesfa Alem **Seyoum**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Let me underline at the outset that my Government has been impelled to harbour strong reserv on the credibility and conduct of the UN Security Council. This emanates from repetitive, uns experiences that it has gleaned in a long time. Notwithstanding this fact, allow me to submit our and appeals in regard to some critical and timely issues; both for the record, and, for the sake respect of the rule of law as well as in fulfillment of our moral duties.

First: on the issue of terrorism and the "war on terror"

The underlying causes and rise of terrorism will doubtless require, even if uncontroversial, profound appraisal and scrutiny. For reasons of brevity, however, I do not wish to dwell on this of the phenomenon in this brief letter.

For a long time both before and especially after its independence, Eritrea has been tested as a and victim of terrorism. This assertion is not derived from some abstract or speculative analysi borne out by well-documented facts and events. The relentless struggle we have, and conti conduct, to combat terrorism is indeed well-known to everybody.

The tragic events of September 11 were critical in heightening international public awareness the real menace of terrorism. The "war against terror" that was launched in the aftermath of the incident has however drifted with time to assume preoccupying dimensions. In more blunt and terms, it would not be an exaggeration to state that "the war on terror has now been derailed".

The fact is many governments and political forces are misconstruing the catch-phrase, opportunistic manner and outside its real ambit, to advance their narrow, dominant interests, t justice, the rule of law, and, as a convenient tool for fabricating pretexts (as "a means for an These unscrupulous approaches and practices are engendering a spiral of ever-increasing annihi of populations, disruption of societies, intermittent crises and instability in various regions globe. What is ironic is that all these transgressions are being justified in the name of the "w terror".

Conscientious voices raised against the crimes perpetrated, or the convoluted policies pursued the rubric of "the war on terror" are invariably undermined and quelled through the logic of dece intimidation. The search for appropriate remedies is being frustrated and becoming increa elusive.

Unfortunately, the UN Security Council appears to be oblivious to these crimes and transgre that cannot be masked in any way. Had the Security Council shouldered its legal and responsibilities in the world as a whole and in the various sub-regions, the aberrations could been avoided. Sadly, the Security Council has become hostage to its structural flaws thereby for its accountability to its international constituency. Rectification has accordingly become a pipe d

Bleak as the current reality is, there is no doubt that truth and justice will ultimately prevail. And in this respect, we shall not cease from urging for corrective action.

Second: The problem of Somalia and the Security Council

It has almost been 16 years now since Somalia, whose flag is hoisted at the UN premises in New York as well as in other regional bodies, has virtually been erased from the world political map as a viable State and country. The primary cause and exacerbation of this reality has its own historical explanations. Internecine clan fighting is sometimes exaggerated beyond proportions and depicted as the primary malaise behind the turmoil. But the primary cause is in fact the incessant international and regional interferences pursued to achieve geopolitical objectives.

The endeavours exerted in the past 16 years to facilitate the reconstitution of Somalia in order to ensure the welfare of the Somali people and to promote regional stability have been numerous indeed. The Government that was established pursuant to the successful Arta Conference in Djibouti in 2004 was undermined and made to collapse through external interferences with the false claim that it was dominated by "terrorist elements". As a consequence of this act, Somalia became a battle ground for "the warlords" that was instigated externally. Several "war lords" were rewarded with military support as "anti-terrorists".

The "Transitional Government" was subsequently formed in 2005 mainly through the influence and manipulation of several external actors. The TFG was however incapable of asserting its power in Mogadishu remaining confined in Baidowa for obvious reasons.

The Somali people became tired of the interminable crises that was neither in their interest nor of their own making. In Mogadishu and other places, spontaneous undercurrents aspiring to achieve stability began to emerge and coalesce. The chorus for stability that arose in Mogadishu and other localities, and the UIC itself that emerged, did not spring up by design under the guidance of the UIC. Rather, they were the result and spontaneous manifestation of the popular wish of the Somali people. That promising stability, attested by the UN itself, was achieved in Mogadishu and its environs is indeed fresh in our memories.

To roll back the visible progress, an invasion was planned in mid 2006 in the name of the "war on terror". Provocative measures were taken in order to elicit reaction. In the end, the desired chaos was achieved.

Resolution 1725 that the UN Security Council adopted on 6 December 2006 (irrespective of our views) is to be remembered. However, because the "deterrent scheme" was already determined, the flagrant invasion was carried out by Ethiopia under the rubric of "the war against terror" without taking into account the wishes of the Somali people and in contravention of UN Resolution 1725. And yet, the Security Council and its member States endorsed the invasion; some through their silence and others through overt support.

But the matter did not end there. The resistance of the Somali people to invasion continued fervently. The popular resistance was again dubbed as "terrorism" and war unleashed in Mogadishu and its environs with tanks and artillery causing the death of civilians and dislocation of hundreds of thousands.

All this happened under the watch of the UN Security Council. The atrocities and crimes are being justified as collateral consequences of the "war on terror" and at times, as damages incurred by clan in-fighting. The mendacious campaign to justify invasion and injustices through various bogus pretexts will no doubt continue. But until when?

The deteriorating and dangerous situation in Somalia will not abate in spite of the oft-repeated claims by the invaders that "everything is under control". History and the experiences of the last few years illustrate that force and deceit will not solve what is essentially a political problem. To believe otherwise is mere illusion.

The invasion unleashed against Somalia in the name of the "war on terror" has aggravated the instability of our region in addition to the human toll and destruction that it is inflicting on the Somali people.

To ask "where is the UN Security Council?" may be considered as naivety. As I emphasized before and irrespective of our expectations, we wish to put on record our stance for the sake of justice and the respect of the rule of law and loudly urge the UN Security Council to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities.

(*Signed*) Isaias **Afwerki**
President
The State of Eritrea